

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE
ON
FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

10:30 a.m.

Room 326 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Families and Children's Services was called to order by the Chair.

Members present: Reps. Clack, Dean, Accavitti, Hammon, Wojno, Sheen, Stahl, Hoogendyk.

Members absent/excused: Rep. Palmer.

Representative Dean moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2007 meeting. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

The Chair laid HB 4923 before the committee.

HB 4923 Meisner Human services; food assistance; food assistance benefits; require distribution twice a month.

Representative Andy Meisner, sponsor of HB 4923, and Dawn Pline of Senator Martha Scott's office testified in support of the bill. Ms. Pline also submitted written testimony. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Chris Michalakakis of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union testified in support of the bill. Mr. Michalakakis also submitted written testimony. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Jane Shallal of the Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers testified in support of the bill. Ms. Shallal also submitted written testimony.

Jackie Doig of the Center for Civil Justice testified in opposition to the bill. Ms. Doig also submitted written testimony. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Ron Hicks and Don Mussen of the Michigan Department of Human Services testified in opposition to the bill. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Najib Atisha of Indian Village Market testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Mary Dechow of Spartan Stores testified in support of the bill.

Mark Kassa of K-6 Food Mart and Andy Manni of Saturn Super Foods testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Kate White of Elder Law of Michigan testified and indicated a neutral position on the bill.

Jane Marshall and Kirsten Simmons of the Michigan Food Policy Council testified and indicated a neutral position on the bill. Ms. Marshall and Ms. Simmons also submitted written testimony.

The following individuals submitted cards in support of the bill, but did not wish to testify:

Linda Gobler of the Michigan Grocers Association.

Ken Fletcher of the Michigan AFL-CIO.

Glen Heartley of Plumbs, Inc.

Bill Black of the Michigan Teamsters.

Stacie Behler of Meijer, Inc.

Representative Dean moved to excuse the absence of Representative Palmer. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

There being no further business before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Representative Brenda Clack, Chair_____

Dan Stump, Committee Clerk

House Families and Children's Services Committee, (517) 373-5795